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- (71) Applicants (*for all designated States except US*): IN-STITUT CURIE [FR/FR]; 26, rue d'Ulm, F-75248 Paris Cedex 05 (FR). CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS) [FR/FR]; 3, rue Michel-Ange, F-75794 Paris Cedex 16 (FR). MUSEUM NATIONAL D'HISTOIRE NATURELLE [FR/FR]; 43, rue Cuvier, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05 (FR). INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE (INSERM) [FR/FR]; 101, rue de Tolbiac, F-75654 Paris Cedex 13 (FR).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): DUTREIX, Marie [FR/FR]; 6, rue de Chalais, F-94240 L'Hay-les-Roses (FR). SUN, Jian-Sheng [FR/FR]; 49, avenue de Pomereu, F-93600 Aulnay-sous-Bois (FR).
- (74) Agents: PEAUCELLE, Chantal et al.; Cabinet Armen-gaud Ainé, 3, avenue Bugeaud, F-75116 Paris (FR).
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(54) Title: NUCLEIC ACIDS USEFUL FOR TRIGGERING TUMOR CELL LETHALITY

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to double-stranded nucleic acid fragments comprising a chemically modified backbone and at least 4-1000 bp, preferably 8-500 bp, and most preferably 16-200 bp. The disclosed molecules (DRIL molecules) may interfere with DNA damage signalling and repair pathways, in particular the non homologous NHEJ pathway of double-stranded break repair. The invention discloses the application of the DRIL molecules as adjuvant compositions to be used in association with a DNA breaking treatment, particularly radiotherapy or chemotherapy, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, in an efficient amount to be introduced in the tumoral cell nuclei in order to trigger DNA repair induced lethality (DRIL in short) of tumoral cells/tissues.

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